

Appl. No. 10/656,552

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

33. (original) A method of producing a handling aid suitable for use with a tampon for feminine hygiene comprising the steps of:

a) dipping a former having at least two separate lobes corresponding to finger coverings into a liquid, film-forming material to form a handling aid having at least two separate finger coverings for a user; and

b) forming a line of weakness wherein one of said finger coverings is at least partially detachable from a remaining part of the handling aid.

34. (original) The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising the step of drying the handling aid and dipping the former and dried handling aid an additional time into the liquid, film-forming material.

35. (original) The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising the step of drying the handling aid and dipping the former and dried handling aid an additional time into a second liquid, film-forming material.

36. (original) A method of producing a handling aid suitable for use with a tampon for feminine hygiene comprising the steps of:

a) thermally bonding together a first essentially planar film and a second essentially planar film in a pattern corresponding to an outline of the shape of the handling aid;

b) protecting an edge region of the films from thermal bonding to form an opening in the handling aid.

37. (original) The method as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the step of laminating the first essentially planar film to a substrate by applying pressure and temperature.

38. (original) The method of producing a handling aid as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the step of forming a line of weakness wherein one of said finger coverings is at least partially detachable from a remaining part of the handling aid.

39. (original) The method of producing a handling aid as claimed in claim 38, wherein the step of forming the line of weakness comprises applying pressure to the film.

Appl. No. 10/656,552

40. (original) The method of producing a handling aid as claimed in claim 38, wherein the step of forming the line of weakness comprises reducing the film thickness.

41. (original) The method of producing a handling aid as claimed in claim 38, wherein the step of forming the line of weakness comprises perforating the film along the line of weakness.

42. (withdrawn) A method of disposing of a tampon comprising the steps of:

- a) removing a soiled tampon;
- b) at least partially detaching one finger covering from a handling aid comprising at least two separate finger coverings for a user, wherein at least one finger covering of the handling aid is joined to the finger covering by a line of weakness in such a way that the said finger covering is at least partially detachable from a remaining part of the handling aid;
- c) enclosing the soiled tampon in the detached finger covering by turning this finger covering inside out, for hygienic disposal; and
- d) disposing of the soiled tampon.